

Biographical Sketches of Key Figures

Alston, J.H.

A member of the Committee of Colored Citizens, at the age of 27 in 1898, Alston has not been located in the 1860, 1870, or 1880 census or the 1897 city directory. Alston was listed in the 1900 city directory as a physician with an office at 701 N 4th Street and his home at 808 N 4th Street. Alston was listed in the 1900 census as living at 918 North 7th Street (age 29) with his wife Sarah (age 24). Alston has not been found in subsequent census schedules either.

Sources: Sources: Prather, *We Have Taken a City*; Reaves, *Strength Through Struggle*; 1860-1930 census; 1897, 1900 city directories; Bill Reaves Collection, New Hanover County Public Library; McDuffie, "Politics in Wilmington;" Cody, "After the Storm," 1890, 1897, 1900 New Hanover County tax records.

Ashe, Richard

A member of the Committee of Colored Citizens, Ashe was 39 at the time of the riot. Ashe has not been found in the 1860 or 1870 census but in 1880 he lived in Wilmington with his father Simon, a woodcutter, and worked as a laborer in a brickyard. Both father and son were born in North Carolina. Ashe was listed in the 1897 and 1900 city directory as a laborer and lived at 910 Castle Street. Ashe was active in community life and served as a director of the People's Perpetual Building & Loan Association. In the 1890 tax list, he did not own taxable property. In the 1897 and 1900 tax lists Ashe owned property valued at \$250. Ashe moved to Washington, DC, by the time the 1900 census recorded that he, wife Mary and three daughters were living in a rented home while he worked as a janitor. The family remained in Washington where, by 1910, Ashe was a janitor at a police station. Ashe's father, Simon, remained in Wilmington and in 1900, he was 84 years old.

The words "home sick" are written on the CCC summons found in Waddell's papers.

Sources: Sources: Prather, *We Have Taken a City*; Reaves, *Strength Through Struggle*; 1860-1930 census; 1897, 1900 city directories; Bill Reaves Collection, New Hanover County Public Library; McDuffie, "Politics in Wilmington;" Cody, "After the Storm," 1890, 1897, 1900 New Hanover County tax records.

Salem J. Bell (Salen, S. J.)

A member of the Committee of Colored Citizens, Bell was approximately 43 in 1898. He was a partner in a fish and oyster business, Bell & Pickens, with Robert Pickens. Their business catered to both individual and wholesale interests and was located on Water Street at the Front Street Market. During the rioting on November 10th, Bell was one of six men "marched" to train bound for Richmond and forced to leave town. He was probably targeted because he was an active member of the Republican Party and his business was competition for other fish dealers on Water Street. A native North Carolinian born to parents also born in North Carolina, Bell has not been found in the 1860 census and most likely was enslaved. In the 1870 census, he was 15 and lived in Holden Township where he worked as a domestic servant in home of white Dr. Elisha Porter and was reported as illiterate. By 1880, Bell was married to Ida E. (age 21) and was working as a turpentine hand. In 1890, he owned 4 acres in Wilmington valued at \$200. In 1897, his home was at 313 S. 7th Street. In the 1900 city directory and census, his wife still lived at the house they owned on South 7th and his son (also named Salem Bell) lived at 905 Green Street and worked as a laborer. In the 1900 census, Ida reported that she was widowed. Although she reported that she owned her house, it was mortgaged. By 1918, the house on South 7th was occupied by James Walker.

Bell has not been clearly identified in the 1900 or 1910 census. One possible entry for Salem was a man listed as a laborer in 1900, an "opener" in an oyster shop in 1910 and laborer for a club in 1930, all in Fairfield Connecticut.

Sources: Prather, *We Have Taken a City*; Reaves, *Strength Through Struggle*; 1860-1930 census; 1897, 1900 city directories; Bill Reaves Collection, New Hanover County Public Library; McDuffie, "Politics in Wilmington;" Cody, "After the Storm," 1890, 1897, 1900 New Hanover County tax records.

Brown, Henry

A member of the Committee of Colored Citizens, Brown was 42 at the time of the riot. Brown was a barber and active political leader. He operated Brown & Pearson Barbers at 122 Princess Street with James Pearson and lived at 512 Walnut Street. According to the 1900 city directory, Brown & Pearson still